

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-52 and 58-71 have been cancelled.

Please cancel claims 89 and 90.

Please amend claims 72 and 88 to read as follows:

✓ 1. - 52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a counterfeit resistant document recording medium, having thereon a predefined unique document identifier and at least one security feature;

C1 (b) defining a variable document content, comprising at least one of text and graphic images, for imprinting on said recording medium by means of a computer printer;

(c) storing the variable document content in a database indexed by an associated document identifier; and

(d) authenticating the counterfeit resistant document by authenticating the security feature and comparing the stored document content with a perceived document content.

54. (Original) The method according to claim 53, wherein said authenticating the security feature comprises execution of a cryptographic process.

55. (Original) The method according to claim 53, further comprising the step of financially accounting for said storing.

56. (Original) The method according to claim 53, further comprising the step of financially accounting for said authenticating.

57. (Original) The method according to claim 53, wherein said authenticating step comprises a local process for authenticating the security feature and a remote process for authenticating the document content.

58. - 71. (Canceled).

72. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating a document, comprising:

providing a document stock;

preprinting the document with an essentially unique identifier;

defining a content for the document comprising at least one of text and graphic images;

generating an associated digital signature for verification of the document content and said essentially unique identifier; and

printing the content and the digital signature on the document stock by means of a computer printer.

C 73. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 72, further comprising the step of printing the digital signature on the document stock by means of the computer printer.

74. (Original) The method according to claim 73, further comprising the step of authenticating the document by verifying that the digital signature corresponds to the document content and essentially unique identifier.

75. (Original) The method according to claim 72, further comprising the step of receiving the digital

signature and authenticating the document by verifying that the digital signature corresponds to the document content and essentially unique identifier.

76. (Original) The method according to claim 72, wherein the anticounterfeit features comprise a set of visually distinct fibers in said document stock.

77. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 72, wherein the document stock has anticounterfeit features.

78. (Original) The method according to claim 72, wherein the essentially unique identifier comprises a composite of a random portion and a predictable portion.

CI 79. (Original) The method according to claim 72, further comprising the step of accounting to a content proprietor for a printing of the document.

80. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 79, wherein said accounting comprises issuing a request for

the document content and electronic payment information; and receiving content and its associated digital signature.

81. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 72, wherein said preprinting step comprises printing with a computer printer using a non-secure communications channel.

82. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 72, wherein said printing step comprises printing with a said computer printer using a non-secure communications channel.

83. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 72, wherein said printing step comprises communicating the essentially unique identifier over a network to a server, receiving the document content over the network from the server, and printing the received content on the document stock.

84. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 72, wherein said providing and preprinting steps are conducted securely.

85. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 77, wherein the anticounterfeit features comprise at least one of a lithographed pattern printed on the document stock and an integral non-deterministic characteristic of the document stock.

86. (Original) The method according to claim 85, wherein the non-deterministic characteristic comprises a fiber pattern, further comprising the steps of recording the fiber pattern prior to said printing, and authenticating the document stock by comparing a consistency of the recorded fiber pattern with a fiber pattern determined at a time of authentication.

C1 87. (Original) The method according to claim 72, further comprising the step of authenticating the document based on a public key-private key algorithm which authenticates the essentially unique identifier together with the document content.

88. (Currently Amended) An authenticatable recording medium, comprising:

a document stock having counterfeit resistant features;
an imprinted tamper resistant unique identifier on the
document stock; and

a content recording surface with a blank area suitable
for printing at least one of text and graphic images by
means of a computer printer;

information content recorded on the content recording
surface; and

a self-authenticating message recorded on the content
recording surface for authenticating the information content
and the tamper resistant unique identifier.

89. - 90. (Canceled)

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91. (Original) The authenticatable recording medium
according to claim 88, further comprising an ascertainable
integral non-deterministic characteristic of the document
stock.

92. (Original) The authenticatable recording medium
according to claim 91, wherein the non-deterministic
characteristic comprises a fiber pattern.

93. (Original) The authenticatable recording medium according to claim 88, wherein the imprinted tamper resistant unique identifier comprises a predictable portion and a random portion.